

CLAIMS:

1. An electronic business transaction system, comprising:
 - a center site;
 - a plurality of member sites; and
 - a network connecting the center site and the member sites to each other, wherein the center site includes:
 - an open business information database for storing therein information of open businesses;
 - a notarization database for storing therein contracts undergone a notarization procedure;
 - means for registering open business information which is issued to find business partners by the member site to the open business information database;
 - means for transmitting contents of the open business information database to the member site;
 - means for transmitting an order specification received from the member site to an order destination member site;
 - means for transmitting an order reception specification received from the member site to an ordering member site; and
 - means for conducting, when a contract document of a contract received from an ordering member site is substantially equal to a contract document of the contract received from an order receiving member site, a notarization procedure for the contract and registering

the contracts to the normalization database.

2. An electronic business transaction system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the center site further includes authentication means for identifying and authenticating a connected partner.

3. An electronic business transaction system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the center site further includes means for transmitting, in response to a request from the member site, contents of the open business information database to the member site.

4. An electronic business transaction system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the center site further includes means for transmitting information of a transaction amount of a contract between member sites to a member sites having a function of settlement.

5. An electronic business transaction system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the center site further includes means for storing therein the information of a transaction amount of a contract between member sites, conducting a calculation for a netting operation of transaction amounts between the member sites and between groups to which member sites belong, and transmitting a result of the netting operation to a member site having a function of settlement.

6. An electronic business transaction system in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the center site further includes:

means for receiving from a member site a report

of delivery for a contract and recording the report in the notarization database;

means for receiving a report of a settlement operation of a contract from a member site having a function of settlement and recording the report in the notarization database; and

means for periodically checking the notarization database, detecting a case of which delivery or settlement is retarded for a contract thereof, and transmitting a warning message to member sites associated therewith.

7. An electronic business transaction system in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the center site further includes:

means for setting an authentication level indicating a limitation of transaction for each member site; and

means for comparing a transaction request from a member site with the authentication level set to the member site and thereby determining whether or not the transaction request is accepted.

8. An electronic business transaction system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the network includes a dedicated line.

9. A center site connected via a network to a plurality of member sites to configure an electronic business transaction system, comprising:

an open business information database for

storing therein information of open business;

a notarization database for storing therein contracts undergone a notarization procedure;

means for registering open business information which is issued to find business partners by the member site to the open business information database;

means for transmitting contents of the open business information database to the member site;

means for transmitting an order specification received from the member site to an order destination member site;

means for transmitting an order reception specification received from the member site to an ordering member site; and

means for conducting, when a contract document of a contract received from an ordering member site is substantially equal to a contract document of the contract received from an order receiving member site, a notarization procedure for the contract and registering the contracts to the notarization database.

10. A method of achieving electronic business transactions in an electronic business transaction system including a plurality of member sites, a center site, and a network to connect the member sites and the center site to each other, comprising the steps of:

storing open business information which is issued to find business partners by a member site in an open business information database in the center site;

transmitting contents of the open business information database from the center site to the member site;

transmitting an order specification received from a member site from the center site to an order destination member site;

transmitting an order reception specification received from a member site from the center site to an ordering member site; and

conducting, when a contract document of a contract received from an ordering member site is substantially equal to a contract document of the contract received from an order receiving member site, a notarization procedure for the contract and registering the contracts to the notarization database in the center site.

11. A system in which an information transmission source firm registers a case of business specifying an information receiving partner firm to a business database, and statuses of cases of businesses inputted to the system are managed in business transactions between firms which refer to the cases of businesses registered by the information receiving partner firms comprising a first server and a second server,

the first server including:

first storage means for storing therein for each information transmission source a status of inputted cases of each information receiving partner; and

processing means for processing, in response to registration of a new case of an information transmission source, the status of inputted cases for a receiving partner associated therewith,

the second server including:

second storage means for storing therein for each information receiving partner a status of inputted cases of each information transmission source;

processing means for processing, in response to update of the status of inputted cases of the receiving partner, the status of inputted cases for an information transmission source related to the pertinent receiving partner; and

processing means for referring, in response to an inquiry from an information receiving partner, to the second storage means and transmitting the status of input cases of each information transmission source related to the pertinent receiving partner to the information receiving partner having issued the enquiry.

12. A method, for use in a system in which an information transmission source firm registers a case of business specifying an information receiving partner firm to a business database, for managing statuses of inputted cases of businesses in business transactions between firms which refer to the cases of businesses registered by other firms comprising the steps of:

storing in first storage means the status of inputted cases for each information transmission source

and updating the status in response to registration of a new case by an information transmission source;

summarizing and storing in second storage means a status of inputted cases for each information transmission source, and updating, in response to update of the status of inputted cases, the status of inputted cases for an information transmission source related thereto; and.

referring, in response to an inquiry from an information receiving partner, to the second storage means and transmitting the statuses of input cases to the information receiving partner having issued the enquiry.

ADD B1

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C2